



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced that **SALVADOR HERNANDEZ**, age 50, of Belle Glade, Florida, pled guilty on April 6, 2012 in U.S. District Court in Syracuse to employing illegal aliens in Cayuga County in 2008 and 2009.

HERNANDEZ pled guilty to the one count information, which charged him with conspiring to hire at least ten illegal aliens in 2008 and 2009 knowing, or in reckless disregard of their being illegal aliens, in connection with agricultural work at a farm in King Ferry, New York. **HERNANDEZ** was employed as crew foreman for Sunrise Labor, Inc., a farm labor company based in Belle Glade, Florida, who provided laborers for the harvest of field crops. Sentencing is scheduled for August 8, 2012 in Syracuse, New York. **HERNANDEZ** faces up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, a three year period of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$100.

"This investigation is a terrific example of how law enforcement works together, utilizing our combined authorities and resources, to take down a criminal organization that went to great lengths to not only disguise the employment, but the harboring of illegal aliens, in order to make a buck," said Nick DiNicola, assistant special agent in charge of HSI Albany, N.Y. "Thanks to the diligent and extensive investigative work conducted by HSI special agents from our offices in Buffalo, Syracuse and West Palm Beach, along with our partners at the Border Patrol, this case will send a clear message that those who

choose to utilize or harbor a workforce comprised of illegal aliens will be held accountable for their actions

This case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations, Syracuse Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard R. Southwick.